

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current
scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1
P674

United States Department of Agriculture,

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,

Seed and Plant Introduction and Distribution,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

BARNYARD MILLET (*Panicum crus-galli*).

Barnyard millet is a coarse annual, stooling freely and producing a great abundance of seed. It was introduced from Japan and has become a common weed in nearly every section of the country, being most abundant in the sloughs and cornfields of the Mississippi and Missouri river valleys, where it causes considerable trouble on the low, black soils in the latter part of the season when cultivation ceases.

While an annual, its heavy seed production causes it to volunteer quite freely, thus reproducing itself abundantly under nearly every condition. Being extremely variable, there have been obtained by selection several varieties of this grass, which are on the market under the names of Japanese millet, Billion-Dollar grass, etc. The better forms of this grass, such as Japanese millet, are probably of greatest value as a soiling crop or for ensilage, although it may be handled as common millet for hay. In doing this, however, a great deal of care is required in curing on account of its succulence. The Japanese millet is relished by stock and under favorable conditions produces a heavy yield of forage. It may be found of value on moist soils in regions where timothy or better hay plants will not thrive. This sphere of its usefulness seems to be confined at present to the wet meadows of the far West and South, although some dairy farmers find it of value as a soiling crop in the East.

Culture.—When sown at the rate of 9 to 16 pounds per acre on cultivated land which has been thoroughly prepared by plowing and pulverizing, the stand will be thick enough so that the quality of the hay will be fairly good. Rich moist soils require less seed than poor sandy ones. The seed may be sown broadcast and harrowed in or seeded with a drill. In the South it should be seeded early in the spring, but in the North the date of seeding is less material, the grass doing well when sown either in late spring or early summer. The best hay is obtained when it is cut just after the blooming period. If seed is allowed to mature, it will shatter badly when the hay is handled and in this way reseed the ground. Only in situations and under conditions where more valuable forage crops can not be grown is it advisable to sow this grass.

JANUARY, 1908.



